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In re De Lajarte

143 USPQ

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Court of Customs and Patent Appeals
In re De Lajarte

Appl. No. 7287 Decided Nov. 5, 1964

PATENTS

1. Claims—"Comprising," "Consisting," etc. (§ 20.30)

Patentability—Composition of matter (§ 51.30)

Where claims are directed to glass composition and applicant contends that two modifying components in reference composition are excluded by claim's words "consisting essentially of," applicant has burden of showing the basic or novel characteristics of his glass, i.e., of showing that introduction of these two components would materially change characteristics of applicant's glass; burden is met by pointing out in specification and claims the great increase in desired properties resulting from his glass.

2. Patentability—Composition of matter (§ 51.30)

Pleading and practice in Patent Office
—In general (§ 54.1)

In total absence of evidence to indicate that glass disclosed by reference would be expected to have desirable insulating properties, there is no justification for placing burden on applicant to conduct experiments to determine insulating properties of such glass; it cannot be assumed that small differences between reference's glass and applicant's glass are incapable of causing a difference in properties; by showing that his glass has basic and novel properties, applicant has met his burden.

3. Patentability—Composition of matter (§ 51.30)

Specification—Sufficiency of disclosure (§ 62.7)

Cases cited in support of position that, in order for range claimed by applicant to be critical, range must be disclosed as being critical, are not applicable in instant case since issue involved is anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, not obviousness.

Particular patents—Glass

De Lajarte, Glass Compositions, claims 5 and 11 of application allowed.

Appeal from Board of Appeals of the Patent Office.

Application for patent of Stephane Dufaure De Lajarte, Serial No. 689,956, filed July 5, 1957; Patent Office

Division 56. From decision rejecting claims 5 and 11, applicant appeals. Reversed.

JOHN L. SEYMOUR and BAUER & SEYMOUR, both of New York, N.Y., for appellant.

CLARENCE W. MOORE (GEORGE C. ROBINSON of counsel) for Commissioner of Patents.

Before RICH, Acting Chief Judge, MARTIN, SMITH, and ALMOND, Associate Judges, and KIRKPATRICK, Judge.*

ALMOND, Judge.

Stephane Dufaure De Lajarte appeals from a decision of the Board of Appeals affirming the examiner's rejection of all of the claims in appellant's application¹ for a glass composition.

The rejected claims 5 and 11 read as follows:

5. Electrically insulating glass having a composition consisting essentially of the following constituents in per cent by weight

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| SiO ₂ | 66.8 |
| Bo ₂ | — |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 3.0 |
| Fe ₂ O ₃ | 1.6 |
| MnO | 0.6 |
| CaO | 9 |
| MgO | 4 |
| BaO | 3 |
| Na ₂ O | 8 |
| K ₂ O | 4 |

said glass having resistance to perforation equivalent to at least about 36 KV in a plate 500 x 500 x 7 mm., at 200° C., under 50 cycle alternating current.

11. Electrically resistant glass, in particular for glass insulators, having a resistance to perforation equivalent to at least about 20 KV. in a plate 500 x 500 x 7 mm. at 200° C., under sine wave current of 50 periods, and having a composition consisting essentially of

SiO₂ + Al₂O₃ 68-75 wt. per cent of which Al₂O₃ is always present and is lower than 8%

Na₂O + K₂O 12-15% of which K₂O is 1-4%

* United States Senior Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, designated to participate in place of Chief Judge Worley, pursuant to provisions of Section 294(d), Title 28, United States Code.

¹ Serial No. 689,956, filed July 5, 1957, for "Glass Compositions."

and Na₂O is not over

11% when Al₂O₃ is less than 4%

and Na₂O is not over

13% when Al₂O₃ is greater than 4%

members from the group consisting of

SiO₂, MgO, and BaO

of which CaO and

MgO are present

and CaO is in the

range

Metal oxides of the

type of Bi₂O₃, Fe₂O₃,

TiO₂, PbO,

MnO, ZnO + fluor-

ine compounds

Appellant indicates that the intended use of his glass is as an electrical insulator. Glass suitable for such use must have high resistance to perforation by high-voltage electric current, particularly when the glass is hot. Appellant states

that insulator glass must also maintain high resistivity at high temperatures, have high chemical durability under conditions of use and be free of devitrified or crystalline particles. He alleges that a glass having all of the desired properties can be obtained by making a glass having the composition set forth in the claims. It

can be seen from 11 that a rather indefinite relationship between components is specified. For example, the amount of Al₂O₃ present must be below

11%, but not until the exact amount of Al₂O₃ is determined can the limits on CaO and Na₂O be set. The amount of

Na₂O may vary from 1 to 4% but the permissible range of K₂O is not determined until the amount of Na₂O is established.

In his application, appellant compares

what is described as "a prior art glass

a standard composition for electrical

insulators" with glasses which conform

to the composition set forth in the

claims. The prior art glass contains

75% SiO₂, 1.5% Al₂O₃, 14.5% Na₂O,

1.5% K₂O, 11.8% CaO, 1.5% MgO, 1.8%

MnO, and 0.6% MnO. It can be seen

that this composition varies from that

set forth in claim 11 in containing more

than 11% Na₂O and less than 1% K₂O.

The prior art glass had a resistance to

perforation of 14 KV in a plate 500 x 500 x 7 mm. at 200° C., under 50 cycle

alternating current. The three glasses

having compositions according to the

claims have resistances of 24.5 KV, 81

and 36 KV.

The sole reference is:

Lyle 2,443,142 June 8, 1948

De Lajarte

143 USPQ

143 USPQ

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Division 58. From decision rejecting claims 5 and 11, applicant appeals. Reversed.

JOHN L. SEYMOUR and BAUER & SMITH, both of New York, N.Y., attorneys for appellant.

CLARENCE W. MOORE (GEORGE C. RODMING of counsel) for Commissioner of Patents.

Before RICH, Acting Chief Judge, MARTIN, SMITH, and ALMOND, Associate Judges, and KIRKPATRICK, Judge.*

ALMOND, Judge.

Stephane Dufaure De Lajarte appealed from a decision of the Board of Appeals affirming the examiner's rejection of all of the claims in appellant's application¹ for a glass composition.

The rejected claims 5 and 11 read as follows:

5. Electrically insulating glass having a composition consisting essentially of the following constituents, per cent by weight

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| SiO ₂ | 66.8 |
| B ₂ O ₃ | 3.0 |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 3.0 |
| Fe ₂ O ₃ | 1.8 |
| MnO | 0.6 |
| CaO | 9 |
| MgO | 4 |
| BaO | 3 |
| Na ₂ O | 8 |
| K ₂ O | 4 |

said glass having resistance to perforation equivalent to at least about 36 KV in a plate 500 x 500 x 3 mm., at 200° C., under 50 cycle alternating current.

11. Electrically resistant glass, particularly for glass insulators, having resistance to perforation equivalent to at least about 20 KV, in a plate 500 x 500 x 7 mm. at 200° C., under 50 cycle current of 50 periods, having a composition consisting essentially of

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| SiO ₂ + Al ₂ O ₃ | 68.75 wt. per cent |
| of which Al ₂ O ₃ is always present and is lower than 8% | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Na ₂ O + K ₂ O | 12-15% of which K ₂ O is 1-4% |
|--------------------------------------|--|

* United States Senior Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, designated to participate in place of Chief Judge Worley, pursuant to provisions of Section 284(d), Title 28, United States Code.

¹ Serial No. 669,556, filed July 5, 1950, for "Glass Compositions."

and Na₂O is not over 11% when Al₂O₃ is less than 4%

and Na₂O is not over 13% when Al₂O₃ is greater than 4%

members from the group consisting of CaO, MgO, and BaO of which CaO and BaO are present and CaO is in the range 7-12%

Metal oxides of the type of B₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, ZrO₂, TiO₂, PbO, MnO, ZnO + fluor. 0-5% in compounds

Appellant indicates that the intended use of his glass is as an electrical insulator. Glass suitable for such use must have high resistance to perforation by high-voltage electric current, particularly when the glass is hot. Appellant states that insulator glass must also maintain its resistivity at high temperatures, have good chemical durability under conditions of use and be free of devitrified or crystalline particles. He alleges that a glass having all of the desired properties can be obtained by making a glass having the composition set forth in the claims. It can be seen from 11 that a rather intricate relationship between components is specified. For example, the amount of Al₂O₃ present must be below 8% but not until the exact amount of Al₂O₃ is determined can the limits on SiO₂ and Na₂O be set. The amount of K₂O may vary from 1 to 4% but the permissible range of K₂O is not determined until the amount of Na₂O is established.

In his application, appellant compares what is described as "a prior art glass of a standard composition for electrical insulators" with glasses which conform to the composition set forth in the claims. The prior art glass contains 69% SiO₂, 1.5% Al₂O₃, 14.5% Na₂O, 0.3% K₂O, 11.3% CaO, 1.5% MgO, 1.8% Fe₂O₃, and 0.8% MnO. It can be seen that this composition varies from that set forth in claim 11 in containing more than 11% Na₂O and less than 1% K₂O. The prior art glass had a resistance to perforation of 14 KV in a plate 500 x 500 x 7mm., at 200° C., under 50 cycle alternating current. The three glasses having compositions according to the claims have resistances of 24.5 KV, 31 KV and 36 KV.

The sole reference is:

Lyle 2,448,142 June 8, 1948

The stated object of Lyle is to produce an amber glass of pleasing color and good chemical durability. Amber color is obtained by the addition of carbon and sulfur. Lyle states that:

Prior amber glass of the reduced or carbon-sulfur is notoriously unstable and such stability as is attained is often transitory. This is to be expected from the combustibility of the basic coloring materials, carbon and sulfur. Consequently, such glass, which is properly colored when partially melted, may lose color and may blister and foam as melting and refining proceeds and may become unfit for use if held very long at high temperatures.

To solve this problem, Lyle uses a composition having the following relation: S-2N-K where S is the weight percentage of silica, N is the weight percentage of alkali and K is a constant ranging from 45 to 60. In Table I Lyle sets forth several examples of his amber glass including the following composition

A

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| SiO ₂ | 70.0% |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 3.5 |
| CaO | 7.8 |
| MgO | 5.2 |
| BaO | 1.0 |
| Na ₂ O, K ₂ O | 12.0 |
| CaF ₂ | 1.0 |
| Fe ₂ O ₃ | 0.041 |

The above glass was made from a batch having the following composition:

A

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Sand | 200.0 |
| Soda Ash | 55.3 |
| Raw Dolomite | 79.8 |
| Nepheline Syenite | 48.3 |
| Barytes | 5.0 |
| Fluorspar | 3.5 |
| Powdered Charcoal | 1.0 |

Lyle states that the percentages of sulfur and carbon were omitted from Table I and that sulfur in A was supplied by barytes in the batch.

The examiner, in his letter of May 8, 1958, stated that Lyle "teaches a glass composition consisting essentially of the same oxides and proportions as claimed by applicant, note Table I, composition A * * *." The examiner contended in the Final Rejection of November 18, 1959 and in his Answer that the claims were directly readable on the composition of Lyle. This language would seem to indicate that the statutory basis of the rejection is 35 U.S.C. 102. The board,

however, talked about critical difference which could indicate 103. The solicitor, at oral argument, declared that he did not know what the ground of rejection was and refused to rely upon either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 alone. Apparently, then, both sections must be considered.

The examiner's intended rejection was apparently a "102 rejection," despite the actual differences which exist between Lyle and the claimed composition. In the Examiner's Answer, the 1% K₂O limitation of the claims was treated as follows:

The composition of Lyle would include the proportional limitation relationship of K₂O and Na₂O as recited in appellant's claim since it is noted in Table II, Composition A, that nepheline syenite is employed as the raw batch constituent for supplying K₂O in the final glass composition A, Table I. In the analysis of nepheline syenite, K₂O is present in amounts of more than 5%.

Therefore, in Lyle's composition, since .05 of the combined Na₂O and K₂O total is K₂O, the amount of K₂O is calculated to be about 1 percent of the total glass composition, thus falling within the range limitation of K₂O (1-4%) recited in appellant's claims.

The fact that Lyle contains sulfur and carbon in addition to the components specified by the claims was not commented upon by the examiner.

The Board of Appeals affirmed the examiner but admitted that Lyle did not necessarily disclose a glass containing 1% K₂O in stating:

We note that Lyle discloses, particularly in Example A (table II in column 3), that a substantial amount of nepheline syenite is employed in preparing the glass. Although it cannot be regarded as certain as to exactly how much potassium is introduced into the glass composition thereby, there does not appear to be any doubt that the glass composition includes potassium. We find no evidence that there is any critical difference between the amount of potassium in the glass compositions of Lyle and the minimum of 1% specified in claim 11.

The board, as did the examiner, failed to comment upon the sulfur present in Lyle's composition. With regard to carbon, the board stated:

Lyle discloses that a very small amount of carbon, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%, is employed in the preparation of his glass composition A. In our opinion,

it would not be expected that the presence of this small amount of carbon would substantially alter the electrical resistance of the glass composition. Claim 11 which recites "consisting essentially" the named ingredients does not exclude small amounts of other materials which do not change the essential character of the composition. In our opinion, it must also be considered that some of the charcoal employed by Lyle may be lost due to atmospheric oxidation during the preparation of the final glass. In the absence of a factual showing of a critical difference in the electrical resistance of applicant's glass composition as compared to that of the compositions taught by Lyle, we are of the view that claim 11 does not patentably distinguish from the reference.

[1] Appellant contends that his claims are not anticipated by the Lyle reference because (1) Lyle's composition contains sulfur and carbon which are excluded from appellant's composition by the words "consisting essentially of" and (2) Lyle's composition does not meet the 1% K₂O limitation recited in appellant's claims. We will first consider the carbon and sulfur question. Appellant and the solicitor agree that the issue is whether the introduction of sulfur and carbon would materially change the characteristics of appellant's insulating glass. The solicitor would put the burden of showing a material change on the appellant. The effect of "consisting essentially of" was considered in *In re Janalidrama-Rao*, 50 CCPA 1312, 317 F.2d 951, 137 USPQ 898, where, as in the present case, the claims were directed to a glass composition and the reference contained some modifying components in addition to those claimed by appellant. The court found that appellant's glass had no basic or novel characteristics and thus did not distinguish over the reference. Thus, here appellant has the burden of showing the basic or novel characteristics of his insulating glass. He has met his burden by pointing out in his specification and claims the great increase in resistance to perforation resulting from his composition.

The Board of Appeals and the solicitor contend that appellant has furnished no evidence that a critical difference in appellant's emphasized characteristics would result from the introduction of small amounts of Lyle's coloring agents, charcoal and sulfur. It is not clear what evidence they would require. The solicitor has noted that an affidavit which the board did not consider contains nothing significant on this issue. It may

be implied that the Patent Office would require appellant to duplicate the Lyle glass and compare its resistance to perforation with that of appellant's glass.

[2] In the total absence of evidence in the record to indicate that the amber glass disclosed by Lyle would be expected to have desirable electrical insulating properties, we can find no justification for placing the burden on applicant to conduct experiments to determine the insulating properties of the colored glass disclosed by Lyle. Although there are only very slight differences between the Lyle composition and that sought to be patented, we cannot assume that these small differences are incapable of causing a difference in properties. Appellant, in showing that his glass has basic and novel properties (at least as far as the record is concerned), would appear to have met his burden.

Another difference between appellant's glass and the Lyle glass is the K₂O content. Claim 11 calls for 1 to 4% K₂O. Lyle uses nepheline syenite, K₂O-containing rock, in forming his glass. The amount of K₂O in the nepheline syenite apparently may vary greatly and thus it is impossible to say just how much K₂O is present in the Lyle composition. Appellant contends that at least one type of nepheline syenite will introduce only 0.6% K₂O into the composition. The solicitor apparently concedes that the amount of K₂O is uncertain. His position is, however, that even 0.6% is enough to meet the claims because there is no proof that the range of 1 to 4% is critical. There is no indication in the record that the examiner ever questioned the criticality of the range. The question was apparently first raised by the board. After the board's decision, appellant filed an affidavit attempting to establish the criticality of the 1-4% range. The board refused to consider the affidavit on the basis that no new rejection had been made and that the affidavit was not filed in time. The appellant does not dispute that ruling here.

[3] In support of his position that in order for a claimed range to be critical the range must be disclosed as being critical, the solicitor cites *In re Bourdon*, 44 CCPA 740, 240 F.2d 358, 112 USPQ 323; *In re Selmi et al.*, 88 CCPA 187, 156 F.2d 96, 70 USPQ 197; *In re Britton*, 28 CCPA 726, 115 F.2d 249, 47 USPQ 265; *In re Honnig*, 39 CCPA 740, 193 F.2d 191, 92 USPQ 135; *In re Shoemaker*, 23 CCPA 1033, 88 F.2d 288, 29 USPQ 209; and *In re Greider*, 29 CCPA 1079, 129 F.2d 583, 54 USPQ 139. In *Bourdon*, *Britton* and *Shoemaker*, the

it would not be expected that the presence of this small amount of carbon would substantially alter the electrical resistance of the glass composition. Claim 11 which recites "consisting essentially" of the named ingredients does not exclude small amounts of other materials which do not change the essential character of the composition. In our opinion, it must also be considered that some of the charcoal employed by Lyle may be lost due to atmospheric oxidation during the preparation of the final glass. In the absence of a factual showing of a critical difference in the electrical resistance of applicant's glass composition as compared to that of the compositions taught by Lyle, we are of the view that claim 11 does not patentably distinguish from the reference.

[1] Appellant contends that his claims are not anticipated by the Lyle reference because (1) Lyle's composition contains sulfur and carbon which are excluded from appellant's composition by the words "consisting essentially of" and (2) Lyle's composition does not meet the 1% K₂O limitation recited in appellant's claims. We will first consider the carbon and sulfur question. Appellant and the solicitor agree that the issue of whether the introduction of sulfur and carbon would materially change the characteristics of appellant's insulating glass. The solicitor would put the burden of showing a material change on the appellant. The effect of "consisting essentially of" was considered in *In re Janakirama-Rao*, 50 CCPA 1812, 230 F.2d 951, 187 USPQ 893, where, as in the present case, the claims were directed to a glass composition and the reference contained some modifying components in addition to those claimed by appellant. The court found that appellant's glass had no basic or novel characteristics and thus did not distinguish over the reference. Thus, here appellant has the burden of showing the basic or novel characteristics of his insulating glass. He has met his burden by pointing out in his specification and claims the great increase in resistance to perforation resulting from his composition.

The Board of Appeals and the solicitor contend that appellant has furnished no evidence that a critical difference in the appellant's emphasized characteristics would result from the introduction of small amounts of Lyle's coloring agents, charcoal and sulfur. It is not clear what evidence they would require. The solicitor has noted that an affidavit which the board did not consider contains nothing significant on this issue. It may

be implied that the Patent Office would require appellant to duplicate the Lyle glass and compare its resistance to perforation with that of appellant's glass.

[2] In the total absence of evidence in the record to indicate that the amber glass disclosed by Lyle would be expected to have desirable electrical insulating properties, we can find no justification for placing the burden on applicant to conduct experiments to determine the insulating properties of the colored glass disclosed by Lyle. Although there are only very slight differences between the Lyle composition and that sought to be patented, we cannot assume that these small differences are incapable of causing a difference in properties. Appellant, in showing that his glass has basic and novel properties (at least as far as the record is concerned), would appear to have met his burden.

Another difference between appellant's glass and the Lyle glass is the K₂O content. Claim 11 calls for 1 to 4% K₂O. Lyle uses nepheline syenite, a K₂O-containing rock, in forming his glass. The amount of K₂O in the nepheline syenite apparently may vary greatly and thus it is impossible to say just how much K₂O is present in the Lyle composition. Appellant contends that at least one type of nepheline syenite will introduce only 0.6% K₂O into the composition. The solicitor apparently concedes that the amount of K₂O is uncertain. His position is, however, that even 0.6% is enough to meet the claims because there is no proof that the range of 1 to 4% is critical. There is no indication in the record that the examiner ever questioned the criticality of the range. The question was apparently first raised by the board. After the board's decision, appellant filed an affidavit attempting to establish the criticality of the 1-4% range. The board refused to consider the affidavit on the basis that no new rejection had been made and that the affidavit was not filed in time. The appellant does not dispute that ruling here.

[3] In support of his position that in order for a claimed range to be critical the range must be disclosed as being critical, the solicitor cites *In re Bourdon*, 44 CCPA 740, 240 F.2d 358, 112 USPQ 323; *In re Selmi et al.*, 38 CCPA 1187, 156 F.2d 96, 70 USPQ 197; *In re Britton*, 28 CCPA 726, 115 F.2d 249, 47 USPQ 265; *In re Honnig*, 39 CCPA 740, 198 F.2d 191, 92 USPQ 185; *In re Shoemaker*, 23 CCPA 1039, 53 F.2d 288, 29 USPQ 209; and *In re Greider*, 29 CCPA 1079, 129 F.2d 568, 54 USPQ 189. In *Bourdon*, *Britton* and *Shoemaker*, the

issue was obviousness. Since the issue here is anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, we do not feel that the language of those cases is applicable. In *Selmi* the claimed ranges of components in an alloy steel actually fall within the ranges of components of a prior art steel. This case is different because the claimed range actually differs from the prior art range. In *Greider* and *Honnig*, the prior art showed a product similar to that claimed and having the same alleged properties. In both cases, the court refused to attach any significance to a claimed range without a showing that the range caused an improvement over the prior art product. We do not have that situation here because there is no indication that the glass composition of Lyle has desirable electrical insulating properties. Thus, we do not feel that the cases relied on by the solicitor permit us to disregard the 1 to 4% limitation as immaterial.

We agree with the solicitor that there is little support in the record for the range. In fact, as the solicitor has pointed out, there is no evidence in the record that the application as originally filed specifically contained the 1 to 4% limitation. This attack, however, appears to be directed to the sufficiency of the disclosure. Since no rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 was made by the examiner, that issue is not now before us.

The claimed composition contains 1 to 4% K₂O, no sulfur, no carbon, and possesses insulating properties which, as far as the record indicates, have never been known in the prior art. The Lyle reference composition contains a small amount but likely less than 1% K₂O plus sulfur and carbon as essential components. It is an amber colored glass with no electrical insulating properties disclosed. In view of these many differences, we hold that the Lyle composition does not anticipate appellant's claims.

We do not feel that a rejection based upon the premise that the differences between appellant's glass and the Lyle glass are obvious can be sustained. Admittedly, the differences are small, but Lyle is devoid of any suggestion of a glass embodying these differences. The examiner has failed to suggest any reason for omitting carbon and sulfur from the Lyle glass. If one were making a colorless glass free of carbon and sulfur, there would be little reason for using the Lyle formula since it was primarily designed to enhance color stability. In the absence of any showing why it would be obvious to modify Lyle's glass, a "103 rejection" must be reversed.

Our discussion has been directed primarily to claim 11, but the reasoning applies also to claim 5 which is narrower than claim 11 and which the board treated as not patentably distinct from claim 11.

The decision of the Board of Appeals is thus reversed.

Patent Office Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

INFANSEAT COMPANY v. HANOVER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Decided Sept. 10, 1964

TRADEMARKS

1. Cancellation—Mark and use of parties
—In general (§ 67.1771)

Registration—Effect (§ 67.747)

Registrant's registration constitutes prima facie evidence of its use of registered mark for named goods since filing date of its application therefor; therefore, cancellation petitioner has burden to establish in the first instance continuous use of term as a trademark for its goods since at least prior to that date.

2. Evidence—Of use (§ 67.339)

Priority of use of trademark may be established by uncorroborated testimony of a single witness, if testimony is sufficiently circumstantial, definite, and otherwise convincing; however, testimony is insufficient where it is general in character and is not corroborated by any documentary or physical exhibits.

Trademark cancellation No. 8,049 by Infaseat Company against Hanover Manufacturing Company, Registration No. 661,659, issued May 18, 1958. Petition dismissed.

ROBERT W. B. DICKERSON, MURRAY ROBINSON, CARL B. FOX, JR., NED L. CONLEY, and JAMES A. BARGFREDE, all of Houston, Tex., for Infaseat Company. CLARENCE A. O'BRIEN & HARVEY B. JACOBSON, Washington, D.C., for Hanover Manufacturing Company.

Before LEACH, WALDSTREICHER, and LIPKOWITZ, Members.

LEACH, Member.

Infaseat Company has petitioned to

cancel a registration of the mark "BABY SITTER" and certain merely ancillary geographically descriptive working and design matter for an infant's chair with handles. This registration issued May 18, 1958 to Hanover Manufacturing Company from an application filed September 11, 1957.

It is in effect alleged in the petition that petitioner and petitioner's predecessors in business have for many years manufactured and sold in interstate commerce baby carriers under the trademark "BABY SITTER"; that petitioner or one of its predecessors first used the said trademark for baby carriers on or before November 8, 1958; and that respondent's mark so resembles that of petitioner as to be likely, when applied to respondent's goods, to cause confusion or mistake or to deceive.

The record in this case consists of the pleadings, respondent's registration, and testimony and documentary and physical exhibits adduced in behalf of petitioner.

[1] Respondent's registration constitutes prima facie evidence of its use of the mark "BABY SITTER" for infant's chairs since September 11, 1957, the filing date of its application therefor. American Throwing Company, Inc. v. Famous Bathrobe Company, Inc., 116 USPQ 166 (CCPA, 1957). Petitioner, therefore, has here been under the burden of establishing in the first instance continuous use of "BABY SITTER" as a trademark for its baby carriers since at least prior to that date.

The president of the petitioner's corporation, the only witness offered in its behalf, has testified that petitioner through predecessors in business, i.e., Infaseat Company, Inc., a corporation of which he was also president, and Eldora Millwork and Manufacturing Company and Infaseat Company, a co-partnership of which he was a partner, has been engaged in the sale of a combination baby carrier and baby seat since 1951, and that petitioner and its said predecessors have, since November 8, 1958, continuously applied the mark "INFANSEAT" and the two-word mark "BABY SITTER" to every container in which its product has been marketed. This testimony, however, is quite general in character, and, at least insofar as it relates to the use of "BABY SITTER" by petitioner or its predecessors since a date prior to respondent's record date, it is not corroborated by any of the documentary or physical exhibits made of record herein by petitioner. For example, copies of

¹ Reg. No. 661,559.

sales invoices which are said to represent sales of petitioner's product under the mark "BABY SITTER" on November 3, 1958 refer only to the mark "INFANSEAT"; a copy of a bill received in October of 1958 by the first of petitioner's predecessors for the purchase of a die which is said to have been used by it to imprint the mark "BABY SITTER" on the cartons for its product refers only to the mark "INFANSEAT"; an assignment which purports to transfer title to a number of patents and trademarks from Infaseat Company, Inc. to petitioner makes no reference to the mark "BABY SITTER"; and another assignment which purports to transfer title to the mark "BABY SITTER" from the first of petitioner's predecessors to the second was executed on June 10, 1963, a date subsequent to the institution of this proceeding.

[2] It is of course recognized that priority of use of a trademark may be established by the uncorroborated testimony of a single witness, if his testimony is sufficiently circumstantial, definite and otherwise convincing. In the present case, the testimony of petitioner's president is considered to fall far short of meeting these requirements, and hence to be quite insufficient as proof of petitioner's use of "BABY SITTER" as a trademark since prior to respondent's record date of use.

Decision

The petition is dismissed.

Patent Office Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

In re DIAMOND NATIONAL CORPORATION

Decided Sept. 10, 1964

TRADEMARKS

Marks and names subject to ownership
—Names—Corporations or partnerships (§ 67.5213)

Although "Gardner" is part of trade name "The Gardner Division," that, in itself, does not necessarily preclude "Gardner" from being a trademark as well, since a name or part of a name of a corporation or division thereof may be a trademark, trade name, or both; however, considering that label's most prominent feature is a symbol trademark, that